

From: Walt
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 10:15pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement.

Memo

To: Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001
From: Walt Chambers
Date: 1/28/02
Re: Microsoft Settlement.

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my support for the settlement that was reached between Microsoft and the Justice Department.

First let me state that I have been in the Industry since 1976 and have worked with Major retailers such as Zales Corp., Major credit card processors such as MBNA. Major banks such as American Savings, Australian New Zealand Bank, State Bank of South Australia. Major manufacturers such as Alps Electric. I have worked as a consultant for Arthur Andersen Consulting, Cap Gemini Sorgetti, and Computer People Australia.

In my various positions with these firms I have been involved with contract negotiations with IBM, Microsoft, Fujitsu, Honeywell, etc?

In all my dealings with Microsoft I have never witnessed any unfair dealings and they were usually the industry norm or even a little less competitive than say IBM.

The consumers were in my opinion already well protected by Microsoft from Hardware manufacturers which were trying to make their configurations of Microsoft proprietary and lock business consultants like myself out? If you look back to when PC's first came out this was the biggest problem.. Until Microsoft stepped up to the plate and forced conformity so that the user would have a consistent experience across all platforms and vendors.

I feel the settlement would end the waste of time and money by our government. In my opinion the whole legal battle was never really about the consumer but was focused on corporate access to government lobbyist's by hardware and other software manufacturers who weren't smart enough to compete.

I believe the settlement which ends the wasteful court battles is good for consumers and the entire computer industry.

The terms of the settlement indicate an extensive agreement that requires

many concessions from Microsoft.

Microsoft has agreed to grant computer makers broad new rights to configure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft software programs that compete with programs included within Windows. And Microsoft will not retaliate against any computer maker who takes advantage of these new rights. Microsoft will also be monitored by a three-member Technical Committee that will assure the company meets its obligations.

As a member of the computer industry, I know the importance of Microsoft not only to our industry but also to the entire economy. Concluding this settlement will provide certainty to the industry and give Microsoft the freedom to design new technology. I hope you will continue to support the settlement and take no further action in litigating this case

Sincerely,
Walt.

CC: fin@mobilizationoffice.com@inetgw